

Appln No. 09/880,714

Amdt date August 23, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 23, 2004

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Page 1, amend the title as follows:

Communications—network WDM COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK WITH  
REGENERATION AND SWITCHING

Page 7, lines 1-11, amend the paragraph as follows:

Figure [[4]] 5 shows an exemplary optical communication network 70 comprising an access ring network 72 and a sub-ring network 74. The access ring network 72 comprises a plurality of network nodes 76, each incorporating a network node structure of the type of network node structure 10 described above with reference to Figures 1 to 3. The sub-network 72 can comprise a single wavelength SONET based network, with one of the 8 available wavelengths in the example embodiment being dropped and re-added at the network node 76A. In the example embodiment, the wavelength utilised in the sub-ring network 74 is denoted  $\lambda_A$ . Importantly, this wavelength may be different to any one of the wavelength  $\lambda_1$ - $\lambda_8$  and the associated tributary interface card (not shown) is configured accordingly. An example wavelength utilised in the sub-ring network 74 may be 1310nm, whereas the wavelength chosen in the access ring 72 may be:

Page 7, lines 24 through page 8, lines 1 and 2, please amend the paragraph as follows:

In the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure [[4]] 5 the access ring network 72 is configured as a CWDM network having

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eight channels i.e. relatively widely spaced wavelength signals which reduces the likelihood of cross talk between channels, thus enabling less stringent design parameters in the implementation of the network. Furthermore, this also reduces the possibility of adjacent channel cross talk due to temperature related wavelength drift, thus permitting the application of the invention to outside enclosures that are subjected to wide temperature variations.

Page 8, lines 9-19, please amend the paragraph as follows:

At each of the network nodes 76, any of the eight wavelength channels can be dropped or added into the access ring network 72. Due to the west-east/east-west transparency of each of the network nodes 76, communications between individual network nodes may be transmitted along different directions around the access ring network 72 to effect path protection. The wavelength allocation scheme must merely account for the fact that each wavelength can only be utilised once in each direction between the individual network nodes 76 should a single fibre bi-directional connection be used between the nodes 76 as in the example embodiment shown in Figure [[4]] 5. However, it is noted that due to the selective switching configuration of the network nodes 76 wavelengths may be switched at individual network nodes 76 to maximise the overall wavelength usage between the individual network elements 76 and ultimately in the overall access ring network 72.